# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2628
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
ERADICATION OF BLINDNESS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India is one of the countries having the largest number of people suffering from blindness;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of blind persons in the country, State-wise, especially in the tribal areas;

(d) financial assistance provided so far during the last three years for tackling the problem of blindness; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for curbing the growing problem of blindness in the country?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Estimated blind persons as per 1986-89 National Survey Projected for the 2001 is 1.5 crores. Cataract is the predominant cause of blindness. Other main causes include refractive errors, glaucoma and corneal blindness.

(c) A Statement showing estimated number of blind persons, State-wise is annexed(Annexure-1).

(d) Financial assistance provided during the last three years under National Programme for Control of Blindness is as follows:

| Year | Funds Utilised |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | Rs. 73.00 Crores |
| 1999-2000 | Rs. 83.83 Crores |
| 2000-2001 | Rs. 109.70 Crores |

(e) Steps taken to control of blindness in the country include the following;

i) Development of Eye Care infrastructure through construction of eye wards & operation theaters and supply of equipments.

ii) Training of eye surgeons and allied personal.
iii) Assistance to NGOs for strengthening infrastructure, free cataract surgery & eye banks.
iv) Organising eye care services in rural areas through camps.
v) School Eye Screening Programme for detection and correction of refractive errors.
vi) Public awareness on prevention and control of blindness.

STATEWISE PRVALENCE OF BLINDNESS AND ESTIMATED BLIND PERSONS IN 2001

| State | Population(in Lakhs) (2001). | Prevalence of Blindness/10 ,000 Pop. | Estimated Blind Persons (in Lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Andhara Pradesh | 75727541 | 150 | 1135913 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1091117 | 123 | 13421 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assam | 26638407 | 134 | 356955 |
| Bihar | 82878796 | 128 | 1060849 |
| Jharkhand | 26909428 | 128 | 344441 |
| Delhi | 13782976 | 63 | 86833 |
| Goa | 1343998 | 203 | 27283 |
| Gujrat | 50596992 | 144 | 728597 |
| Haryana | 21082989 | 113 | 238238 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 6077248 | 87 | 52872 |
| Jammu& Kashmir | 10069917 | 280 | 281958 |
| Karnataka | 52733958 | 129 | 680268 |
| Kerala | 31838619 | 131 | 417086 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 60385118 | 201 | 1213741 |
| Chhatisgarh | 20795956 | 201 | 417999 |
| Maharastra | 96752247 | 164 | 1586737 |
| Manipur | 2388634 | 65 | 15526 |
| Meghalaya | 2306069 | 22 | 5073 |
| Mizoram | 891058 | NA | NA |
| Nagaland | 1988636 | 38 | 7557 |
| Orissa | 36706920 | 172 | 631359 |
| Punjab | 24289296 | 73 | 177312 |
| Rajasthan | 56473122 | 224 | 1264998 |
| Sikkim | 540493 | 45 | 2432 |
| Tamilnadu | 62110839 | 165 | 1024829 |
| Tripura | 3191168 | 118 | 37656 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 166052859 | 158 | 2623635 |
| Uttaranchal | 8479562 | 158 | 133977 |
| West Bengal | 80221171 | 96 | 770123 |
| Andaman & Nicobar Isl. | 356265 | 67 | 2387 |
| Chandigarh | 900914 | 189 | 17027 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 220451 | NA | NA |
| Daman & Diu | 158059 | NA | NA |
| Lakshadweep | 60595 | 89 | 539 |
| Pondicherry | 973829 | NA | NA |
| All States | 1027015247 | 149 | 15302527 |

-Source WHO GOI National Survey (1986-89).